State of Montana Office of the Governor

STATE LAW LIBRARY
FEB 1 3 1997
OF MONTANA



Executive Order No. 1-97

EXECUTIVE CRDER CONTINUING THE GOVERNOR'S WHIRLING DISEASE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the presence of *M. cerebralis*, the causative agent for whirling disease, has now been confirmed in 40 water bodies in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana is still at the very early stages of this problem, and all indications suggest that it is a problem that will escalate; and

WHEREAS, although extensive research efforts are now underway, it is still the case that there is no known cure for whirling disease once it enters a water body; and

WHEREAS, M. cerebralis continues to be detected in water bodies in Montana, and as the social and economic impacts multiply, the public concern over whirling disease will escalate; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Whirling Disease Task Force and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks have emerged as national leaders in the effort to manage wild fish populations infected by whirling disease; and

18 19

20

15

16

17

22

21

2324

25

26

27

28

WHEREAS, the Governor's Whirling Disease Task Force previously promulgated goals and a plan to guide whirling disease research, management, communication and education; and

WHEREAS, the goals and action plan previously developed provide guidance for the Whirling Disease Task Force's continued work.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARC RACICOT, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me by 2-15-122, MCA, do hereby continue the Governor's Whirling Disease Task Force.

I. PURPOSE

- A. The Whirling Disease Task Force shall:
 - 1. Promote public education on whirling disease by helping to establish educational and information programs and by serving as an ambassador to various constituencies and interest groups to ensure they receive up-to-date information.
 - 2. Prepare an annual status report that:
 - a. assesses the status of current efforts to implement the Task Force's recommendations;
 - b. evaluates and updates, as appropriate, the previously established goals and action plan; and
 - auspices of the whirling disease project of the National Partnership on the Management

of Wild and Native Coldwater Fisheries.

3. Provide a forum for the discussion of public policy issues associated with whirling disease in Montana. The Task force maintains a unique position to bring affected parties together to jointly develop a shared understanding of policy options and tradeoffs. These efforts should complement the decision-making roles of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

- 4. Evaluate and, as appropriate, develop recommendations to address the socio-economic impacts of whirling disease.
- B. The Whirling Disease Task Force may establish subcommittees comprised of individuals with needed technical, scientific, educational or economic expertise to assist the Task Force in making informed decisions.

II. COMPOSITION

The Whirling Disease Task Force shall be composed of not more than 21 members, plus the Director of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks who shall serve as an ex-officio member. The names and addresses of members who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor shall be submitted by separate letter to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Secretary of State.

III. <u>DURATION</u> This Task Force shall remain in existence until January 1, 1999, unless extended or terminated by subsequent Executive Order. This Order is effective immediately. GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana, this 7th day of february, 1997. ATTEST: